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THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor

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June 12, 1998

Dear Resident or Business Owner:

Mayor Menino and the City of Boston are initiating a new **Street Furniture Program** that will include new bus shelters, benches, trash receptacles, newsstands, public toilets and informational kiosks to assist residents and visitors alike. These public amenities will be located in neighborhood business districts and along major arterial boulevards. The enclosed brochure outlines our proposed program.

The locations and design of these new installations will be uniquely Boston and developed by neighborhood groups and interested citizens. In addition, the City's planning and preservation agencies will participate in this public process.

We invite your participation in this process as we strive to enhance Boston's neighborhoods and boulevards. Our first meeting will be held on *Tuesday, June 23rd at 7:00 PM at the Copley Square Main Branch of the Boston Public Library in the Rabb Lecture Hall*. We hope you can attend. Please contact William D. Stanton at 635-4100 to RSVP or with any questions.

Sincerely,

The handwritten signature of Michael J. Galvin.

Michael J. Galvin
Chief of Basic City Services

The handwritten signature of Linda Mongelli Haar.

Linda Mongelli Haar
Director of Planning & Zoning, BRA

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, Room 811, Boston City Hall, Boston MA 02201
Michael J. Galvin, Chief of Basic Services (617) 635-4100 Fax: 635-3284

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 23, 1998
7:00-9:00 PM
Rabb Lecture Hall, BPL

1. Introduction

Michael Galvin, Chief of Basic City Services
Linda Mongelli Haar, Director of Planning & Zoning, BRA

2. Presentations - by possible vendors

3. Questions and Answers

Street

furniture

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What will the street furniture look like?

Every city is different. The private companies that make these facilities all believe in designing them to the specifications developed in conjunction with local architects who are sensitive to a community's design issues. In Boston, the historic character of the city and contemporary community growth will offer opportunities for different designs. All will be of high grade, graffiti-resistant materials which are designed to withstand the weather of a Boston winter. The designs will be refined throughout the anticipated community review process.

How and when will the City of Boston introduce this street furniture program?

The City intends to develop a comprehensive plan for the location of street furniture and will issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from interested private companies. The intention is to complete the identification of facility need and the public comment process so that the RFPs can be advertised by the end of 1998. A contract could be awarded within 3 months from the date of receipt of proposals if the necessary design and legal permitting issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the City. Construction and installation would then follow. Boston is likely to use its newest public toilet within six months of signing the contract.



"Tourists and residents alike will use kiosks to find bus and train services, major tourist destinations such as Faneuil Hall and public bathrooms" - Dorothea Hass, Executive Director, WalkBoston



"London, Paris, Moscow and Berlin have established street furniture programs... Boston residents and visitors deserve the same amenities offered by other world class cities" - Mayor Thomas M. Menino



What is Street Furniture?

By street furniture, we mean the amenities that can be found typically on streets such as newspaper vending machines, bus shelters, information kiosks, public toilets, benches, and trash receptacles.

"Extraordinary opportunity for the Arts Community to reach thousands of people who will pass these kiosks daily" — Susan Harnett, Director, Boston Center for the Arts

What is new about street

furniture in Boston?

Major Menino wants to bring an integrated system of street furniture to the city, comparable to that commonly found in many European cities such as London, Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin. San Francisco has had a program in place for almost five years and it provides a high quality of needed amenities such as those listed above. They are extremely attractive and exceptionally well maintained.

Why do we need an integrated system of street

furniture in Boston?

Boston is a walking city with a rich collection of uses and public spaces where residents and visitors are encouraged to gather and enjoy the City. We must make sure that these spaces provide basic visitor amenities – public toilets, visitor information and directed bus stops and the convenience of picking up a local newspaper without the clutter that now prevails throughout Boston streets.



"I'm all for it — would like a good looking public toilet particularly where tourists congregate."

Henry Lee, President, Friends of the Public Garden and Common, "It's only basic humanity to provide public toilets."

Stella Trafford, Chalperson, Commonwealth Avenue Committee.

How much will it cost the City to bring a high quality street furniture program to Boston?

IT WON'T COST THE TAXPAYERS ANYTHING.

Private companies are willing to bid for the right to locate their products, toilets, bus shelters, news stands and information kiosks, free of charge to the City of Boston. In return for the privilege of being able to contract with the City for services, companies derive revenue from the sale of high quality advertising installed on the street furniture.

Will Boston's streets be turned into billboards with a street furniture program?

NO. The City will work with interested community groups and local organizations to determine the appropriate locations for all advertising. Cigarette ads will be prohibited. Not every piece of the integrated furniture system will contain advertising.

The City will closely supervise both the placement of the furniture and advertising with particular attention in locations that are historically sensitive. Free public service announcements will also be provided by the vendor to the art community and various non-profits.

Will the new facilities be safe and clean for everyone to use them?

YES. A significant feature of the program is that the facilities will be maintained at the highest level. The public toilets in San Francisco are exceptionally well maintained by the contractor. They have self-cleaning bowls and floors which are sanitized after each flush, built-in safety features such as two-



"I'm all for it — would like a good looking public toilet particularly where tourists congregate."

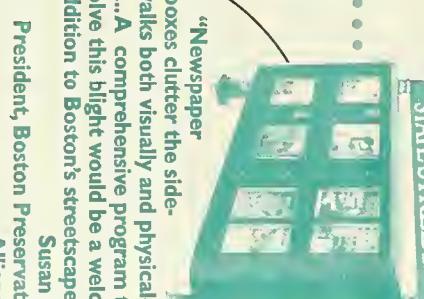
Henry Lee, President, Friends of the Public Garden and Common, "It's only basic humanity to provide public toilets."

Stella Trafford, Chalperson, Commonwealth Avenue Committee.

Where will the street furniture be located?

The bus shelters will be located throughout Boston, in all of its neighborhoods, particularly along the arterial bus routes where there is a concentration of transportation activity. Not every sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate the furniture so the exact placement. Neighborhood

groups, business district organizations and public agencies will be consulted on the need and location for facilities; news and information kiosks will be similarly sited. The public toilets are likely to be located near high concentrations of activity, particularly near significant visitor and tourist destinations. The consolidation of several functions, i.e., bus shelter, telephone and news box will help eliminate street clutter.



"Newspaper boxes clutter the side-walks both visually and physically. A comprehensive program to solve this blight would be a welcome addition to Boston's streetscape" — Susan Park

President, Boston Preservation Alliance
President, Boston Harborfest



"Neat idea — city needs long term planning for real continuity on streetscape!"

Bob Weinberg, President, Marketplace Development, Inc.